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Shippers Say Trans-Pacific Rate Hikes Holding

Shippers say with space tight, some containers are "rolled" to make way for shipments at higher rates

U.S. importers said emergency rate increases the ocean carrier members of the Transpacific Stabilization Agreement are putting into effect this month are taking hold across the board.

"The increase is cast in stone," said Pat Moffett, vice president of global logistics for electronics importer Audiovox. "I don't know of any importers that even flinched. They knew it was just necessary to do this."

The TSA called for a mid-contract increase of \$400 per 40-foot container as of Jan. 15 to offset the losses its members have been incurring on that trade lane.

"I think most people are paying it," said David Akers, CEO of Worldwide Logistics Associates, which manages logistics for the Toy Shippers Association and the Houseware Shippers Association.

"They see it as something that's going to happen. It boils down to the economics of getting on the vessel."

Shippers have been complaining about their containers getting "rolled" in China in recent weeks, as carriers bump containers off their ships to make room for containers paying a higher rate or which are owned by larger shippers.

"We're also seeing a lot of rollovers of the containers," Moffett said. "We've given them the \$400 but at least they should try to get some more ships out there because things are picking up and I'm getting rolled a lot right now," he said.

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